

Recommendations and Problems

Monthly Reports for December 1959

MAP LIBRARY DIVISION

None reported.

CARTOGRAPHY DIVISION

DEVELOPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION BRANCH

25X1A9a A production problem in the Terrain Section is anticipated within the next month. The schedule of Chapter I Summary Maps plus the planned production of 2 operational maps for DD/P will be the cause of the problem. [REDACTED] will return from Europe at the end of January, but we do not expect him to resume full production for several weeks after his return.

FAR EAST COMPILATION BRANCH

The reruns requested by D/GL have not been processed due to other high priority work.

GEOGRAPHY DIVISION

A major problem developed during the month regarding correlation of the maps and text of CIA/RR GR 59-23, Koreans in Japan. Through some misunderstanding, Reproduction assigned high priority to only two of the three maps to be included. As a result the report had to be held up while the third map, which had five color plates, was printed. The report (multilith) was sent to Reproduction on 10 December but will not be disseminated until sometime during the week of 4 January.

EUROPE BRANCH

A major developing problem - To what extent will we be able to rely on minicards, microfilm, IBM, electronic computers, etc., etc., to replace the files that we have so laboriously selected from the flood of incoming documents? Our files have been geared to our individual and Branch operations. They contain not all of the documents on given subjects, but only those which contain the type of data useful in our operations. Reliance on any automatic system based on OCR files will mean that we have to repeat the search and selection system we used to build our files in the first place. A tape run, for example, is merely a listing of all documents coded for a specific subject, documents that according to the present system have all been read previously by the analysts and a few of which were selected for his file. In addition an automation system is no better than the humans that code or feed it. It is true that our files can stand considerable culling out but experience with tape runs instills serious doubts about major reliance on such systems.

~~SECRET~~

GEOGRAPHY DIVISION (Cont'd)

NEAR EAST/AFRICA BRANCH

A cursory check of 4 mineral maps of Turkey, produced by D/GC from data supplied by the Bureau of Mines, revealed possible discrepancies. The problem now rests with Chief D/GC who will take it up with OBI or contributors when appropriate.

COORDINATION STAFF

25X6A

The CIA contribution to NIS [REDACTED] still has not been received in GG/C. The original due date was August 1959; an extension to October 1959 was granted in September. Delay in receipt of this contribution has slowed the coordination process to such an extent that it may be impossible to meet the February deadline.

FAR EAST BRANCH

The year 1959 has seen an acceleration of the pace at which the Far East has been increasing in importance as a priority intelligence target. GG/F's workload of priority projects, both requested and self-initiated, has reflected this trend, but it has become impossible, with present staff, to accomplish the numerous priority projects that require doing while still maintaining even a minimal program of the basic intelligence maintenance that is so essential to continued area competence. This is GG/F's chief problem as we enter 1960.

USSR BRANCH

During the month, the agricultural attache in Moscow was called home on emergency leave. Upon his arrival in the United States, he indicated his availability for a one day debriefing, which would have been of considerable value to the operations of this branch. Unfortunately, St/I did not contact him until the fifth day after they were notified -- too late to arrange the debriefing in Washington. The problem has been brought to the attention of St/I.